

**Community Involvement Advisory Council (CIAC)**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**October 16, 2007**

Present: Voting Members: (Janice Durham, Robert Frederick, Dr. Bethany Hall-Long, Dr. Jay Julis, Pamela Meitner, LaVaida Owens-White, William Pelham (7 Voting Members Present/ Quorum is 6 members / Quorum is confirmed.) Two members, Dr. Bethany Hall-Long and Janice Durham left the Council meeting early to attend the funeral services of Senator James Vaughn.

Present: Other Members/Presenters: James Brunswick, Vicki Ward, Christina Wirtz, Roger Roy, Paul Morrill, Representative Longhurst, Greg Panchisin, Mark Alexander, Al Ballard, Jerry Williams, Ali Mirzakhali, Elder Louis McDuffy, David Small, Joe Matisino, Andrea Moscher

I. Meeting Called to Order

At 9:40 Chairperson, Bill Pelham welcomed the group; stating this morning represents the October meeting of the Community Involvement Advisory Council meeting. Due to time constraints of applicants and council and Senator Vaughn's service is this morning we have a quorum now but will not in another 10 minutes. Council discussed how to proceed with the meeting. It was felt that applicants had taken the time and traveled so the presentations should be heard. Council discussed the possibilities of a vote by phone, keeping in mind the vote must be at a public forum. A special meeting was discussed with consideration of FOIA regulations and member participation by phone vote. It was felt communication should be better; Dr. Julis offered to make telephone calls to members the day prior to meetings. It was also suggested to meet in November at the Appoquinimink State Service Center and explore the telephone avenue.

Paul Morrill, City Manager of Delaware City and the point of contact for the Delaware City Branch Canal Project spoke briefly before departing. He expressed his thanks for the Branch Canal project, stating it was moving forward now and the CIAC funding was the foundation of their project.

Looking at the Agenda, Jay suggested taking care of item V then move to item VII.

II. Approval of Meeting Notes  
August 14, 2007

**Reviewing the meeting minutes of the August 14, 2007 meeting, Jay motioned and Jan second that the meeting notes be approved. All were in favor and with a quorum the meeting notes were approved.**

#### IV. CIAC Membership Reappointments

James informed that the Governor had just reappointed the four members of the CIAC, Bethany Hall-Long, Pam Meitner, La Vaida Owens-White, and Harold Truxon. Pam asked if members would get anything in writing. Letters should be sent out next the end of the month.

#### III. Meeting Protocol Review

Bill noted that we had jumped the protocol; the mission is stated on the back of the name cards and will be referenced during the meeting.

#### V. CEPF Fund

- Results from Grant Status Letters to:  
Paul Morrill, Delaware City Project \$1.3 million request  
Alphonso Ballard, City of Wilmington \$102,000 request
- Southbridge Urban Forest Project Update
- Penalty Account Update

James informed that we had received a letter on October 1 giving an update of fundraising efforts of the **Delaware City Project**. Appropriations are \$104,000 from bond bill, \$295,000 from other funding from New Castle Conservation District current and previous appropriations for Greenway funds and finally \$350,000 in funds from the settlement agreement between Texaco, the Audubon Society and the Natural Resources fund for a total of \$2,295,000 in funding which is 85% of the total estimated project. Mr. Morrill explained the project will be in a two-phase process and they are ready to go forward.

**Bill suggested administratively a letter from CIAC to Paul Morrill, we have received his letter and thank you for the current update, no problem.**

Rep. Bethany Hall Long as well as Janice Durham departed for Senator Vaughn's service.

#### **City of Wilmington Recycle Project.**

James introduced Alfonso Ballard, with the City of Wilmington Public Works Department.

Mr Ballard: Thank you for the opportunity to speak; with the city-wide roll out of the recycling project we have been quite busy. We will be rolling out the receptacles, so we were unable to stay within the constraints of the time frame.

Providing some sample photos from vendors of receptacles, styles and labeling were distributed. Mr. Ballard said he was here today asking Council to give the city the opportunity to move forward with project, we have met with the vender for purchase of the bins and internally working out questions.

James stated Council has previously approved this grant of \$200,000 for purchase of trash receptacles with recycling receptacles, the deadline has passed, and the letter from Mr. Ballard explains as you noted you would be able to move within 2 months. Could you explain what the big belly solar unit is?

Mr. Ballard: The big belly is a solar powered trash compactor, to improve esthetics and help control litter. The recycling program taught us, that by supplying receptacles it helps control letter. People will use receptacles. The big belly will replace the wire bins at bus stops but will reduce the amount of service. Rather than empty the bins 3 times a week we may only have to empty one time per week. These receptacles will be placed in high litter areas. The decorative bins will be in downtown areas where wire baskets are less appealing. The additional fund to be used is for individual receptacles for constituents.

Pam questioned what was depicted in the distributed photos. It was explained they are grey receptacles one is 65 gallons, one is 35 gallons and imprinted wording is different. Pam also questioned the locations of the big bellies. Location has not been identified yet. The bus stops are collected by DART and the city will have to make arrangements with DART to make collection or take over the collection.

James posed the question if the City can extend their deadline?

Jay and other members present had no problem with extending the deadline.

**Bill suggested an administrative letter to give approval and continue with the project.**

James continued with the next issue of the **Southbridge Urban Forestry Project** for which he has received an email update. There remains \$17,000 in funds not expended. Residents could not reach agreement on the trees to be planted, Coastal Zone Programs is willing to work with them however; the final paragraph in the update notes they have no set time frames and would like to continue to work on the project.

Bill shared that his firm had helped to develop this area, there are some title issues but the area could use landscaping along B Street. Jay questioned if it was Bill's was recommendation to extend and give additional time because of the problems involved.

Bill felt a specific deadline should be set as the issues could continue to go on. James suggested they might reapply.

Pam questioned how long of an extension, suggesting it be to the end of the year if issues are not resolved. Bob and Bill agreed a definite time frame was needed. Pam felt it bad to encourage applicants with no specific plans to make a request then the money is in limbo. Look at the money involved, this is a huge part of the program. Bob felt is not fair to other applicants that are more specific.

Pam – how long an extension; by end of year, if not resolved?

Jay and La Vadia both agreed to get a deadline. Pam asked, and James replied the project was approved in April of 2005.

James reviewed the other unfinished projects: Paul Morrill of the Delaware city Branch Canal Project has a deadline June 2008; they are ready to proceed but are more than a year off. The city of Wilmington is prepared to sign agreement and get underway, within next 2 months.

Christina Wirtz, Ombudsman of the Site Investigation and Restoration Branch of the Division of Air and Waste Management, informed the progress of tree project is not slowed by the inability to act; they have been attempting to act but have run into resistance from the residents. Residents did not want trees due to the leaves, maintenance, watering, and the extra work involved with trimming branches. Other types of landscaping is wanted, if the project can be transferred to a landscaping project with smaller less maintenance of mature trees, it may be more agreeable.

Pam indicated the trees provide benefit of shade in heat that smaller shrubs do not have. If they change the project, they should come back to reauthorize the project. If they are not able to mobilize by end of year, we ask them to reapply.

**James: So ask them to have a plan by end of the year; otherwise encourage reapplication?** Both Bill and Bob agreed.

### **Penalty Account Update**

The application period we have a total request for \$579,070 in grant applicants. We have \$559,731 in un-obligated funds. We are close to using all the available funding; we must revise the spreadsheet, funds that are obligated do not show. We are working on trying to tie projects to the penalties claimed by past applicants.

VI. Community Ombudsman Report

- Claymont Community Monitoring Team
- October 25 Septic Financing Charette
- Jintown Ordinance Update

**Claymont Community Monitoring Team** - An article entitled “Claymont residents plan to test steel dust” was included in the meeting handout materials. James informed that in October 2006 a Secretary’s Order to eliminate fugitive dust was issued. Residents have been complaining of dust fallout around Claymont Steel. Conditions of the Secretary’s Order were that Claymont hire a firm and come up with a plan.

Initially the Secretary’s Order addressed dust fallout, in November 2007 an Order was issued to clean up mercury; Claymont Steel was found to have emitted 10 times their permitted amount. The Secretary ordered elimination of excess mercury. The Claymont community was not satisfied; and asked for monitors. This was not financially possible but found that a non-profit organization, Global Community Monitors has the capability of training the community to monitor dust independently

On October 11<sup>th</sup> Claymont Steel and Claymont Collation agreed to \$150,000 in funds to contract with Global Community Monitor to place sampling devices in selected locations throughout the community. Residents will be trained to monitor themselves. Claymont Steel will provide \$50,000. The funding will come through DNREC.

Bill –how large are the particles of mercury?

Ali – They get slag dust. Based on EPA emission factors, which residents felt are inadequate quarterly testing, drop in emissions after put program in place but emission go back up again. Mercury switches in automobiles, on break, trunks lids. Stopped in 2001, abs breaks.

October 25<sup>th</sup> will be the **Septic Financing Charrette** - Inland Bays funding to replace or repair septic systems. On October 25<sup>th</sup> the charrette is taking place in Georgetown at Delaware Technical and Community College at the Carter Partnership Center. There will be 60 people, including a delegation from the Inland Bays and the General Assembly. The University of Maryland will facilitate the meeting. Sussex County Council and experts will be on hand to talk about finance strategies. The purpose is to recommend strategies to the General Assembly for funding.

La Vadia questioned if loan funds were available and James responded there are loans available but not enough. The funding needs include replacement costs, the maintenance, pump-outs and inspections of the systems.

Bill reiterated the charrette is October 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am in Room 535AD, of the Carter Partnership Center at Del Tech, Georgetown.

**Jimtown** – James was unable to give a written report. A meeting was held with Frank Key, members of the community, planning and zoning, where the ordinance was explained that the developer was to provide paved streets, water and sewer. There is still a split and the residents plan to distribute a survey for all households whereby each household will sign if they are for or against the improvements.

Sussex County Councilperson Lynn Rogers delayed formal Council vote. When it does occur, residents will have a petition that reflects the desires of the community. James will bring results to the next council meeting.

VII.	Community Environmental Project Fund Applicants	
•	Urban Heat Island Mitigation	\$ 44,881 *
•	Asthma Action Partnership	\$ 57,700 *
•	Bear Babe Ruth, Inc.	\$150,000 *
•	Central Delaware Habitat for Humanity Relocation and Building Acquisition	\$100,000
•	Central Delaware Habitat for Humanity ReStore	\$ 42,416
•	Vanpool Initiative	\$ 25,880
•	Employee Free Bike Distribution Program	\$ 7,500
•	Ozone Action Transit Partners Program	\$ 17,780
•	Delaware On-Site (Septic) System Technician Training	\$ 51,840 *
•	Green Energy, Green Savings	\$ 71,080
•	North St. Georges Community Park – Phase I	\$10,000

\* Denotes presence and presentation at the 10/16/07 CIAC meeting. The remaining applicants were not present.

### **Urban Heat Island Mitigation**

Ali Mirzakhilili explained the update the subcommittee asked for on the UFORE project. Andrea Mosher, of the Delaware Center for Horticulture explained UFORE works toward educating about the Urban Forest effects. A study started in 2004 gathered data the data and they work to promote the findings of the study to various groups and to promote the benefits to communities. They are created printed materials and a toolbox. .

Ali included that 20 years ago we were working on ozone; we are still working on 8 hr attainment and still expect reductions. We have regulations to control ozone; we

are here to talk about urban heat effects, with temperature isotopes, due to asphalt, buildings and lack of porous materials and trees. We have found if we lower the temperature, we lower the ozone formation, higher heat more ozone is generated, so we try to reduce temperatures. As ozone goes up emissions of cars, fugitive odors all increase. Peak ozone days may go up 2-4%. Energy consumption goes down with trees, heat related fatalities, aesthetics, and trees are carbon traps. Trying to undertake a project to reduce with trees, we see as a first step. Along 16<sup>th</sup> Street 29 trees, will not solve the problem but it is a first step. Christina mentioned the trees sidewalk problem. We need to incorporate tree planning in our planning. We need to engage earlier in projects to show the benefits of the projects.

Bill questioned about winter materials holding heat, transition months, and what is the advantage? Andrea explained these would be deciduous trees, still get radiant heat, perfect for the summer canopy, they reduce emission and during winter serves the other purpose.

Bill and LaVadia questioned the cleanup from the trees and the question of sidewalks and how this would be addressed since people are trying to get their State Representatives to replace sidewalks as aging populations cannot replace them. Andrea said that the Delaware Center for Horticulture had partnered with the state in selecting the right tree for the right place.

New Destiny is the site for the project, a smaller lot, on 16<sup>th</sup> Street between Locust and Northeast Boulevard. Jay questioned who New Destiny was, affirming that it is a non profit and noted he liked the project. Jay liked this project, but wanted to get an answer on other money requested, noting we would get that when it is complete.

Members discussed how to proceed with recommendations and decided to get votes from people present so at the next vote they can be recorded on record, also noting that other members may have something to say, that would change their mind.

**LaVadia made the recommendation to approve the project. Jay seconded the recommendation. All council members present were in favor of the Urban Heat Island Mitigation project.**

**Asthma Action Partnership** – James Brunswick, DNREC Community Ombudsman, presented stating this projects target area is in Wilmington and New Castle with highest recorded rates of asthma. A survey indicated that 27% of the population suffers from asthma. Working with Global Community Monitor, we want to perform outdoor monitoring to test a theory. These communities are located in areas of higher concentrations of criteria pollutants. Brief exposure of these higher concentrations trigger asthma and other respiratory illnesses. Other partners in the project include, the American Lung Association, Public Health, and Chi Eta Phi. In addition, there are two medically qualified medical facilities, The Henrietta Johnson Medical Center and

Westside Health. The American Lung Association is raising funds for the asthma treatment and education.

Bill informed the council that the sub committee ranked this project high. **Jay recommended to approve the Asthma Action Partnership project, Bob second the recommendation.**

Reverend Elder McDuffy was present at the meeting. He presides over two civic associations involved in the project. He noted that area has arsenic contamination already. They are dealing with 50 industries, and they are hoping this will take the weight off our backs some in terms of testing.

Bill commented that there is a total of \$579,070 in grant applicants. Available is \$559,000, so there is a \$20,000 difference. Where there any other comments? Pam questioned sampling done by untrained individuals, citing experience and necessity of exact science. Does this create flawed results?

James informed that Global Community Monitor works in 18 countries with focus on refineries. Provided information on the company, samples are with EPA protocols, they maintain chain of custody; the lab posts the analyses on a web site for the whole community. They provide a complete package with analysis identifying health risks. Since this project was ranked at 10, there being no other questions, recommendation to approve.

**All council members present were in favor of the Asthma Action Partnership project.**

**Bear Babe Ruth** – Presenter Greg Panchisin, Board President of Bear Babe Ruth League introduced himself, Representative Valerie Longhurst, and Mark Alexander, District Engineer with DELDOT who has been involved in the project since day one.

Present Spring 2007 – community services Newark, Bear and Middletown, with 69 teams, and 900 participants. This organization is the third largest in Delaware, is 100% volunteer and is a 501c9 nonprofit organization. Greg provided background information as set forth in the application form noting the New Castle County 20 year lease agreement for 30 acres of land to be dedicated to the development of a youth sports complex. The Miracle League field will be the only one of its kind in Delaware. The total cost of 2.5 million, now newer costs at 4.5 million with a 3 year concept. It has been planned from start to finish, all amenities, lights, parking, bleachers, etc. The Capital campaign has been kicked off plus. They are working from donations, from the United Way and other participants. The campaign has different levels of sponsorship. They also have a brick campaign, selling 100 to 250 engraved bricks.

Brochures were handed out which explains the project and provides a synopsis. The League is currently at Red Lion Christian Academy. New Castle County has stepped up, and the plan is to play ball by 2009.

Representative Longhurst offered her support. She is the representative for the Bear area. Representative Longhurst felt the 3 requirements of the fund application hits home, and she is requesting the Council's consideration. The statute mentioned recreational needs for Bear and Middletown, Bear Babe Ruth extends their season to 8 months. The land, 3 miles from the refiners on 72 was originally Valero property. Representative Longhurst worked with Chris Coons of New Castle County to acquire 30 acres with a 20 year lease for \$1. Also the health requirement, we look to develop strong, clean, healthy bodies that meet health requirements for children and parents. This project has recreational, health, and a proximity to refinery; please consider it is a positive project. Mark Alexander added our league strives for a positive environment, enforcing parent connections, with a disciplinary committee to address situations. It is a positive environment.

Bill clarified there will be 9 fields, 1 a Miracle field with synthetic material. La Vadia questioned the outreach to community, with the special interest in disabilities; are there other advertisements to larger community? Greg replied they had just kicked off advertising with two minute video. Also with transportation we can reach the Latino population just down the street.

Representative Longhurst added there has been outreach to Easter Seals, Special Olympics, and schools with special needs programs to bring children into the program. The closest Miracle field is in Harrisburg, so will get participation from Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Bear Babe Ruth also does other fundraisers such as shoes and physical fitness.

Greg stated that Bear Babe Ruth League is the newest in the state. It has doubled in size. have maxed out. This will give us the opportunity to accommodate more youth.

Bill asked about a playground. Representative Longhurst noted that would be a great idea and informed that a grant writer was hired to work on the application. Kim Johnson is the grant writer. Kim has talked with Parks Director, Charles Salkin to get a sponsor for the project. Kim rewrote the proposal sending a great deal of information, rewrote the budget to focus on environmental impact, mitigation of pollutions, creation of recreations opportunities.

Bill had a concern about putting money into a leased property and questioned if New Castle could be made a part of the project to help project beyond the 20 years. Mark informed he had talked with New Castle County and they informed, 20 years is as long as they go, we have the renewal option, this was the top end of what they can provide in a lease situation.

**Bob recommended approving the Bear Babe Ruth, Inc. project, LaVadia second the recommendation.** Bob said the subcommittee liked this project best. Jay and Pam both thought the project was good. **All council members present were in favor of the Bear Babe Ruth, Inc. project.**

James advised the Council that three of the projects, the **Vanpool Initiative**, the **Employee Free Bike Distribution Program** and the **Ozone Action Transit Partners Program** applications were all submitted by one organization, the Transportation Management Association of Delaware (TMA Delaware) who is affiliated with DART. Roger Roy who was here earlier and left to attend Senator Vaughn's funeral services is the Executive Director.

#### **Delaware On-Site (Septic) System Technician Training –**

Presenter Jerry Williams, Department Chair of the Environmental Training Center at Delaware Technical and Community College.

The program started in 1993 training waste water treatment operators. We certify 95% of water and wastewater operators in the state. We have been asked to set up this program in Bulgaria, Philadelphia, Washington, DC and Jordan. The program was done through grants from EPA at no cost to the States. The state of Delaware passed regulations requiring operators to be training certified. According to the Inland Bays strategies, systems must be pumped. There is the assumption that there are qualified people available.

Pamphlets of the courses were circulated. We have a captured industry to be trained and we are asking for in grant to provide a waiver of training money, for the courses, for people when signed up costs are waived. There are installers, pumpers, and inspectors who are all required to take courses. We have been ahead of the curve and this is a great opportunity to make free to industry.

Pam questioned the reason for the program and if there would be paying customers. Jerry explained that in this industry the people who what to be licensed will be waived, accreditations waived. No state of Delaware license holders will be charged but Pennsylvania and Maryland applicants will be charged. This is a waiver for Delaware licensees.

Pam noted this is a scholarship for courses, with no requirement for the poor. Jerry confirmed this as correct. We have a waiver for training funds for all municipalities. Eighty to 90% of this industry is mom and pop operations. There are a few big companies, engineering companies, but for the most part its individual people.

Pam questioned if there was any quid pro quo; we give you a license, you do 5 inspections? Jerry responded that we could work with DNREC on this type issue. Pam noted this is scholarship to private people.

Pam asked and Jerry replied that courses are non credit, but certified. The courses are non credit toward a two year degree, slanted more toward professional development. Jerry said that Del Tech will not fund any noncredit training. Some funds had been received through the Delaware League of Local Governments, previously with the drinking water operators. La Vadia confirmed with Jerry that participants get a certificate.

Pam questioned and Jerry addressed the training sufficiency; the program has two parts, education and licensing. Then applicants must sit for an exam. La Vadia expressed concern for the low income segment, and how families will take advantage, they may already be eligible. The rich are getting richer, with no benefit to the poor. Jerry noted there was no Inland Bays direct benefit, but there is a need for a trained workforce. Any individual from a community can take the course. David added there is an indirect benefit to the public with more license inspectors, competition drives price down, may be benefit to public through reduced rate (maybe) lower prices.

La Vadia questioned why the Dept of Education was not involved. David informed this is outside of structured formal education system in Delaware; this is about professional services and making them available in the market place. Jay observed this is vo-tech training and expressed concern of giving away free courses.

Pam felt the project was fine but needs a quid quo pro. Medical schools require time in rural areas; this should have some state requirement. Jay felt the logistics would be tricky, but nice with a donated hour's program. Jerry said there was a similar problem in the water and waste water program with the Federal government stating you shall have a certified program. We have 4 courses with drinking water same thing. Then state gives the test, we write the test and give to state agencies, they must maintain certification.

Jay suggested students pay half instead of free? Jerry responded that they were looking for incentives. Jay would feel better if they put up money. Pam commented that the program needs a quid pro quo or show of need. Good program but find a way to give back to the community.

Christy mentioned a voluntary program, fee services, and free inspections?  
**Pam said the program has merit interest, but falling short, you need to work with DNREC to get a payback. Bill asked if Jerry could do that within 30 days.**

David mentioned the training expectation of 800 in FY08 and questioned if this would be for all 800, which Jerry confirmed yes.

VIII. Open Forum

There were no comments for the open forum period.

IX. Adjournment

**Bill requested a motion to close. Pam recommended, Bob second and the meeting was declared closed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki E. Ward

Administrative Specialist III, DNREC

*The notes of this meeting are not intended to be a verbatim record of the topics that were presented or discussed. They are for the use of the Community Involvement Advisory Council members and the public in supplementing their personal notes and recall for presentations.*